3/56
24 (V)

Agriculture 1955

Memo. No. 42254 CIV/55-8

19.12.55

Passed.

(18)

Forests – South Kanara Dist – Puttur Taluk – Naravad area – certain requests.

To
The HON'BLE Sri M. BHAKTHAVATHSALAM,
Minister for Agriculture and Forests,
Government of Madras,
M A D R A S.

Sullia, S. K.
20th April, 1955.

S I R,

WE, the undersigned Agriculturists of the MALNAD Area in Puttur Taluk of South Kanara District, beg to submit the following time-old forest grievances for your sympathetic consideration and suitable action:-

The difficulties of an agriculturist in the forest areas are not easily appreciated. The high personages who enunciated policies have had no real contact of the ryots of these farther-most rural parts and the representations of their hardships made as frequently as possible from a distance has had no useful gain. In the result, we are sorry to express the feeling that while every ryot in the country is taken utmost care of by the Government, the interest of Malnad ryot is neglected and his hope of progress under people's Government has been frustrated.

We are happy to have the Hon'ble Minister in charge of all schemes for the prosperity of agriculturists amidst us. We want to avail ourselves of this opportunity to represent, some at least, of our points and also we want those points to be thoroughly discussed and, if possible, we earnestly request the Minister to satisfy himself regarding the genuineness of our difficulties by personal inspection of certain trouble spots.

With this general submission we proceed to mention herein below some of our representations which have been repeatedly made in the past.

I. REVIVAL OF THE POLICY OF LEASING LANDS WITHIN GOVERNMENT RESERVES FOR ARECANUT CULTIVATION.

This practice has been pursued for over twenty years in the past. Patches of land suitable for arecanut cultivation

are available within Government reserves having perennial supply of water in them. About twenty years ago Government wisely relaxed rules and adopted the policy of leasing such of them for a term of fifty years for raising arecanut gardens. While it yielded considerable income to Government ryots also derived satisfaction as they were allowed to grow this valuable commercial crop. Only a year ago this practice was reversed. We submit that it is a retrograde step and so urge the Hon'ble Minister to revive the old practice of allowing leases within the ~~resources~~ reserves.

II. GRANT OF CULTIVABLE LANDS WITHIN GOVERNMENT RESERVES FOR FOOD CROP CULTIVATION.

Fairly large extent of land are available within Government reserves which are fit for food crop cultivation. It is stated, according to official figures, that, such lands are about 30,000 acres in the Malnad Area. They were cultivated lands during pre-settlement days. The Malnad Area is deficit in food while the population is in the increase. These fallow lands may be released for food crop production without detriment to the interest of forests.

III. RESERVE FOREST BOUNDARIES TO BE SHIFTED BACK BY 100 YARDS FROM CULTIVATED LANDS.

Regarding enclosures in Reserved Forests in the Malnad tracts and where the Reserved Forest boundary touches the boundaries of cultivated land, the Reserved Forest boundary may be shifted back to provide a belt of at least 100 yards wide which the adjoining cultivator can keep clear in order to prevent wild animals from destroying the fields and also to prevent infection by pests and germination of malaria.

IV. KUMKI RIGHTS TO RESERVED FORESTS TO BE ABOLISHED.

According to the present practice, the Forest Authorities exercise rights and enforce rules relating to

Reserved Forests on land about 100 yards wide beyond the Reserved Forest boundary. This involves serious handicap to the ryots in such areas becoming inaccessible for bona fide purposes of either removing fuel and things like that for bona fide domestic and agricultural needs or for clearing forest growth for purposes of protecting crops. We submit that the people may be allowed free access up to the limits of Reserved Forest boundaries, if necessary, and the Forest Department may be prevented from excercising any authority on lands beyond the limits of the Reserved Forest boundaries.

V. OTHER AGRICULTURAL AND PUBLIC NEEDS.

Legitimate demands of the general public, such as, free removal of dead and wind-fallen trees for public purposes, mainly construction of foot-bridges across forest streams, school buildings etc. and also legitimate domestic agricultural purposes at concessional rates may be granted. It is also necessary that final orders of such grants be passed by the Forest Range Officer having jurisdiction over the area after proper enquiry to save delay and red-tape.

We also propose that in order to have effective control of the Range by the Forest Range Officer it is desirabl to form an additional range with headquarters at Sullia carving out the reserves of Sampaje, Kilarmale, Kiribhag, Devachalla, Nalkur, Subramanya, Panja, Yenmur, Bantamale etc. and leaving the other areas to the existing ranges. This arrangement will ensure better contact, speedy disposal and effective control and protection of the forests.

Thanking you, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

1. [signature] - President Kollamogra Panchayat
2. [signature illegible] - Panchayat Member Subramanya
3. [signature illegible] - President Subramanya Panchayat
4. [signature illegible]

5. K Subramayaswamy. B.A. L.L.B. Advocate. Puttur.
6. [illegible]
7. [illegible]
8. [illegible]
9. Machiappa Gowda
10. [illegible] President Madatady. C.S.
11. [illegible] President Amara Nalkur. C.S.
12. [illegible] Secretary Amaranaleur C.S.
13. [illegible]
14. [illegible]
15. [illegible]
16. [illegible]
17. [illegible]
18. C. Achutha. Nayak
19. [illegible]
20. [illegible]
21. [illegible]
22. K. Machiappa Gowda. President Kallamapa C.S.
23. [illegible] President Uliaree Kamithoor Pachayat
24. [illegible] President panchayat Sullia.
25. [illegible]
26. [illegible]
27. [illegible]
28. [illegible]
29. [illegible]
30. [illegible]
31) [illegible]

1036/55 C.W Draft 7180/SV Letter dt 3/5/55

From

K.Venkataramana Gowda, M.I.A
Advocate.

Puttur, South Kanara
4th April,1955

43781

My dear Sri Bhaktavatsalam,

I feel greatly obliged to you for kindly responding to my invitation to visit the Malnad areas. The travel in the Malnad tract for three days must have inevitably caused lot of tiresomeness to you for which I hope you will kindly excuse me. But believe me, when I say that the people of all shades of opinion have been greatly satisfied by your visit and the manner in which you met the several representations I am greatful to you for this creating a helpful atmosphere.

Rubl(RDPI)Secy.

Agri. M.O
Un 304/55 1/5/55
28/4/55

Regarding the several representations received on the problems of the Malnad people, I think, it will not be superfluous if I choose to give my own opinion on some of them for consideration.

Rubl(RDPI) M.O.
W036/55-1
2.5.55

The demand for the revival of the policy of leasing lands within the Government reserves for arecanut cultivation, has been conceded by you. An early order may accordingly follow.

On the question of releasing lands within Government reserves for food crop production, I feel, that some consideration may be reserved for being applied under special circumstances. I do not favour granting lands for the purpose situated within the reserves and which are only accessible only through reserve forests. But ~~enclosures~~ enclaves of the patta land to which they are contiguous, at present separated by reserve boundary deserves special consideration and the question of releasing such enclaves for food crops cultivation without attaching any concession thereto is desirable. Such cases may not be found largely and so will not involve sacrifice of any considerable forest area.

The most annoying and the uniformly opposed by all is the situation of the reserve boundary close to the cultivated land. The demand for shifting back the reserve/forest boundary to provide a belt of atleast 100 yards wide which the adjoining cultivator can keep clear has been conceded by you. While this relief is absolutely necessary for the cultivator it may be granted without any restriction regarding cutting trees also The purpose will not be served by allowing trees to remain.

Regarding forest buffer areas, on account of relaxation of rules during "Grow More Food" campaign of Government some people have brought under cultivation portions of so called buffer area of forests. The sum spent on them is large in some cases. All such encroachments of the past deserve sympathetic consideration.

Free removal of dead and wind-fallen trees for public purposes and also grant of such trees at concessional rates for bonafide domestic purposes may be allowed. It is also necessary to authorise Range Officers having jurisdiction over the area to pass final orders on applications made to them.

Your assurance to call for report of Collector on the questions raised regarding Kana and bane in Amara and Sullia maganes of Puttur taluk is welcome. The Collector may be instructed to contact the representatives of the people of the area and obtain their views. I shall be very ~~much obliged~~ glad if the decision taken by Government on the points is communicated to me

Thanking you

Yours sincerely,

K. Veeraiah Gowda M.L.A

To

The Honourable Sri.Bhaktavatsalam
Minister for Agriculture
Government of Madras. Madras

AGRICULTURE(CIV) DEPT

Pl. issue
R
7.5.55

Memo No.42254 CIV/55-1 D/7.5.55.

Sub:- Forests--South Kanara District-Puttur Taluk--Malnad area--Certain requests.

Ref:- From the President, Kallamogra Panchayat etc, petition d/29-4 dated 20-4-55.

PP 1-5 Cy

A copy of the petition dated 20-4-55, from the President, Kallamogra Panchayat and President Subramanya Panchayat is forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests.

PP 1-5 Cy

ogether with a letter dt 24.4.55 from Sri K. Venkataramana Gowda MLA

2. As regards the requests for revival of the policy of leasing of forest lands for area plantation, it is considered that leases may be permitted and that any abuse may be severely dealt with by the cancellation of the individual leases. It is also considered that the maximum holding may be fixed and landless poor may be preferred if such persons are forthcoming.

'A' on P 1 Cy

3. As regards the suggestion for the grant of forest land in Malnad area for food crop cultivation the Government consider that the lands may be leased out without detriment to the preservation of forests.

'B' on P 3 Cy

4. With reference to the request for the shifting of the R.F. boundaries back by 100 yards from the cultivable lands, it is considered that the boundary may be shifted with reference to old pattah lands, eliminating the recently assigned lands,

'C' on P 3 Cy

under the general condition that there should not be any clear felling.

5. The C.C.F. is requested to offer his remarks on the several requests contained in the petition, having regard also to the suggestions in the forgoing paras.

5.5.55

5/5/55

6 SD

To

The C.C.F., Madras.5.

with a copy of PP1-8 cy.

R.O.22.5.55.

N.F. 6.6-57

CENTRAL DESPATCH BRANCH

Van.

Post.

Despatched by ... t.

Messenger

Date 195 . Despatcher's Initials.

8.5.55

Copy of Civic Address presented to Honourable Sri. M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Agriculture and Forests, Government of Madras, Madras by the Panja Panchayat and the Malnad Public of Panja.

Honourable Sir,

1. On behalf of the Panja Panchayat and also on behalf of the public of this malnad centre, we extend to you a hearty welcome on this occasion of your unique visit to this place. Our centre is in the remote corner of the District, which itself is the remote corner of the State. We thank you for your esteemed visit to this undeveloped Malnad area of the district, which testifies to your great desire to see to the improvement of this backward part of the state.

S.A.
Para 4
May be
Examined
Sd.
M. BHAKTAVATSALAM.

2. This centre at present is having a District Board High School, an extra departmental sub Post Office, a Panchayat, a Board Higher Elementary School, a Multi-purpose Co-operative Society. We are thankful to the Government for having provided these facilities. As the population and activities are growing in this important Malnad Centre, we urgently feel the necessity of a Government Hospital with a maternity clinic (for which there was a Government proposal some years back but subsequently dropped), a Veterinery First Aid Centre and a Registration Office. We request the Government through you to provide us with the above mentioned facilities for which we have agitated for the past several years.

3. Agriculture in this Malnad area is accompanied with hardships and misfortunes. The ryots have got many enemies in the jungle beasts like rats, monkeys, rabbits, bisons, boars and wild elephants. There are other pests also. We request that an Agricultural depot may be opened in this centre for supplying seeds, manure, Agricultural impelements, gymaxin and rat poison etc. The present high rate of rent for tractors and bull dozers may be reduced to Rs.5/- per hour. The District Board High School here may be turned into a Multi-purpose Government High School with agriculture as main craft.

4. There are places inside the Reserve Forests with very good sources of water fit for converting into paddy fields and areca gardens. At present the Forest Department authorities are rejecting all petitions asking such lands on lease for growing areca gardens and for paddy cultivation. Such a policy is beneficial neither to the State nor to the people. If such suitable lands now lying waste amidst reserve forests are leased out to people, not only the State will get more revenue but also the people's income will be supplemented. We request you to move the authorities of the Forest Department to lease out such suitable lands having water sources to people for paddy cultivation and for growing areca gardens.

5. Though taking up of major irrigation schemes is difficult in the West coast area, small scale irrigation works may be taken up and help may be rendered to the ryots. There are several tanks here and there in this locality built by the old rajas such as Bogayane kere, (Bhoja raja kere) in Balpa village, Angaravarmana kere and Paramale kere in Yenekal village which are lying without repairs. These tanks if improved will be very beneficial to the neighbouring land owners. The Government were requested several times to take up the repair work of these tanks. Only estimates were prepared, but no work was turned out as yet. We request you to see that the three tanks are repaired without further delay.

6. Honourable Sir, our main grievance is in having no all-weather road. During moonsoon months, the whole of Malnad area is isolated. We have agitated all the years through our representatives and through petitions and through memorials for converting Darbe-Subramanya road into an all-weather one. But we regret to inform you that our request has not been heeded as yet. May we also hope that atleast this memorable visit of yours will bear fruit in making Darbe-Subramanya road into an al-weather road and thus bring life to this much undeveloped Malnad area of th state. In this connection we beg to remind you, Sir, about your promise during your last visit to these parts in the year 1948 on to do your best to convert Darbe Subramanya road into an all-weather road by 1951.

We pray, Lord Subramanya to bestow you long life with courage and vigour to work for the masses to imppove whose lot the State is pledged to.

Honourable Sir, we thank you heartily for having spent your precious time with us inspite of various other State duties.

We remain,
Sir,
Yours faithfully,

The President and the Members of the Panja Panchayat
and
the Malnad Public of Panja Area.

Dated 21-4-55.

(True copy)

Agriculture

To AS

The petition at PP 11 & 12 ante, and the minute of M(A) on P. 11 ante may be perused. The request in para 6 on P. 11 ante, is the same as that in items I & II on PP 1-3 ante, which have been rejected by CCF on PP 9-10 ante. The C.C.F. for remarks. As the remarks of the C.C.F. would in the matter will hold good w.r.t. para 6 on P. 11 ante, no separate action is called for. C.C's remarks called for in the memo at PP 9-10 ante may be awaited till 8.5.55. 6.6.55

18/5/55.

18/5/55

(9.5.55)

15

F. 83 ( )—10.10.[illegible]-5[illegible] 1-2.

MADRAS FOREST Department

From (Name) Sri S.K.Bassu, I.F.S.,

Designation Chief Conservator of Forests,

Station Madras-5.

Received Registered

To

The Secretary to Government,
Agriculture Department,
Fort St.George,
Madras.

93624

Enclosures: Ref. No. 14096/54-C1, dated 17.10.1955. 195 .

Sir,

UNDER SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
21 OCT 1955
AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Sub: Forests - South Kanara District - Puttur Taluk - Malnad Area - Request.

Ref: Government Memorandum No.42254-C.IV/55-5, Agriculture, dated 16.9.1955.

===

I submit that the reply submitted in Chief Conservator's Ref.No. 14103/55-C2, dated 15.9.1955 (in reply to Government Memorandum No. 42133-C.IV/55-1, Agriculture, dated 7.5.1955) covers the points raised in Government Memorandum No.42254-C.IV/55-1, Agriculture, dated 7.5.1955.

for CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.

Nsm.19/10.

C.R. No. 42205

Agn Dept (C IV Secy)

~~Note~~ The C.C.F in ref: on p 15 above may be perused.

2. The file bearing C No 42133 C IV/55 referred to in the C.C.'s letter has been sent to Rev and Finance Department on 17.X.55. It may be awaited till 9.11.55 for examining his report therein with reference to the petition on 1-5 above.

27.X

OK ON

The file referred to overleaf has not yet returned. A W.O. reminder has been sent to Rev / Fin. This may be awaited till 20.11.55 or till the file is received back whichever is earlier

10.11.—

9.11.55.

9.11.55

AGRI.C.IV.DEPT.

Memo No.42254.CIV./55 - 8 dt 19-12-55

Sub: Forests--South Kanara District--
Puttur Taluk--Malnad area--
certain Requests.

Ref: From the Presidents, Kallamogra and other Panchayats, petition dt.20-4-55.

From the C.C.F. ref.No.10496/54-C1 dt.17-10-55.

- - -

The petitioners are informed that the request contained in their petitions cited have already been examined and orders are being issued separately by the Govt., and they do not consider it necessary to take any specific action ~~in the matter~~ on the petition cited.

17.12.55

To

The President,
Kallamogra Panchayat,
Puttur Taluk,
South Kanara District.

Copy to C.C.F., Madras.

Copy to S.F.

AGRI.C.IV.DEPT.

C.No.42254 C.IV/55

Sub: Forests--South Kanara District--Puttur Taluk--Malnad area--certain requests.

Ref: From the Presidents, Kallamogra and other Panchayats, petition dt.20-4-55.
From Sri K. Venkataramana Gowder M.L.A., Puttur, letter dt.24-4-55.
Govt. Memo.No.42254 C.IV/55-1, dt.7-5555.
From the President, Panja Panchatat etc. petition dt.21-4-55.
From the C.C.F. ref.No.10496/54-C1, dt.17-10-55.

PP1-5 Cy

PP7-8 Cy

PP9-10 Cy

PP11-12 Cy.

P 15 Cy

PP1-5 Cy.

In their petition dt.20-4-55, the President of the Kallamogra and other Panchayats and agriculturist of Malnad area in Puttur Taluk South Kanara District made the following representation for consideration of the Government:-

(1) It has been the policy to lease out forest lands for raising ~~area~~ area gardens. Recently requests for lease of land for such apurpose ~~is being~~ were rejected reversed. The old policy of leasing out reserved forest areas to area cultivation should be revived.

Para I on PP1-3 Cy

(2) As Malnad area is deficit in food productio and population is on the increase, waste lands in the reserves should be released for food crop cultivation.

Para II on P 3 Cy.

(3) The reserved forest boundary touches the cultivated lands, and therefore the wild animals destroy the fields, and the crops are infested with pests. The reserved forest boundary should therefore be shifted back by a belt of at least 100 yards.

Para III on P.3 Cy.

(4) The forest authorities exercise rights and enforce rules relating to the Reserved Forests on lands within an area of about 100 yards beyond the R.F. boundary, according to the present practice. The ryots are seriously handicapped as such areas become inaccessible for bonafide purposes of either removing fuel and other bonafide domestic agricultural needs ~~of~~ or for clearing forest growth for purposes of protecting crops. The forest authorities should therefore be prevented from exercising any authority on lands beyond the ~~x~~ reserved forest boundary.

-3 Cy.

5) Removal of dead and wind fallen trees for public purposes of mainly construction of foot bridges across forest ~~stream~~ school buildings and also for domestic agricultural purposes should be granted at condessional rates. Final orders should be passed by the Forest Ranger having jurisdiction over the area after proper enquiry to save delay.

Para V on P 5 of

6) In order to facilitate speedy disposal and effective control and protection of the forests, it is desirable to form an additional range with head quarters at Sullia, with Sampaje, Kilarmale, Kiribagh, Devachalla, Nalkur, Subramanya, Panja, Yennur, Bantamale etc., leaving other areas to the existing ranges. Sri K. Vankataraman Goundar M.L.A. Puttur supported the petitioners.

Para V on P

— PP 7-8 of

2. The remarks of the C.C.F. were therefore called for in the matter. His reply is at p.15 c.f. He has stated that his reply submitted in his ref.No. 14103/55-C2, dt.15-9-55 covers the points raised in this file. The C.C's reference mentioned above is at p.p.19-21 c.f. of top file

PP 9-10 of.

PP 19-21 of top file
C no 42133 C IV 55
— do

3. It is submitted that on certain representations received from the residents of Amara and Sullia Magnes of Puttur Taluk, South Kanara District, the remarks of the Collector of South Kanara and the C.C.F. Madras were called for in the top file and the representations ~~were~~ are examined in the light of their remarks. As some of the requests in this file are alike, the C.C.F. has invited the attention of the Govt. to his previous reference in the top file. The representations in para 1 above, are examined below in the light of the C.C.'s and Collector's references in the top file.

PP 1-5 of. top file

PP 7-8 of top file

C no. 42133 C IV 55 top file

P 15 of.

& PP 19-21 of top file

do

x PP 9-16 of top file

Item (1) of para 1 above: M(A) minuted that lease of lands for arecanut plantations may be permitted and that any abuse may be severly dealt with by cancellation of the individual leases, and that the

'A' on P 1 of.

maximum holding may be fixed and landless poor may be preferred, if such persons are forthcoming.

It has been reported that some leases for raising areca plantations in the R.F. were granted as per G.O.Ms.1235 Devt. dt.25-6-43, that as there were serious abuses of this kind of leases, it was ordered by the C.C.F. that no application for areca lease should be entertained or recommended, that accordingly all pending applications were rejected. The C.C.F. has however stated that in G.O.Ms.No.1689 Agri.. dt.28-6-55 the Govt. have ordered that suitable areas should be leased for valuable crops like cardamom and areca plantations etc. and that the order has been communicated to the concerned officers for necessary action. It may be stated that in 1938, the Govt. issued orders for the leasing out of suitable forest areas to private individuals as reasonable terms for formation of Areca plantations. The C.C.F. in June 1954 submitted proposals for revision of the above policy on account of the abuse of the rights by the lessees. The Govt. after examining the position in details rejected the suggestion of the C.C.F., and he was asked to continue the grant of lands for areca plantation with suitable safe guards. In view of the orders already issued by Govt. in the matter, it does not appear any further action is called for.

Item (2) para 1 above. M(A) observed that the lands may be leased out without detriment to the preservation of forests.

The C.C.F. has pointed out that in view the orders issued in G.O.Ms.No.1689 Agri. dt.28-6-55 regarding the need to follow a liberal policy of grant of lease of land for valuable crops like cardamom, arecanut, plantations etc, no further action is necessary in the matter. He has not made any specific remarks on the question of leasing out forest lands for food crops such as paddy, etc.

Item (3) in para 1 above: M(A) has

minuted that the boundary may be shifted with reference to old pattah lands, eliminating the recently assigned lands under the general condition that there should not be any clear felling. The C.C.F. has reported that the 100 yds. belt around Reserved forest exists already.

'C' on P 3

'P' on P 19 y

It may be pointed out that the ryots who own patta lands near the R.F. boundaries encroach on the R.F. and finally clamour for assignment of the encroached area in the reserves. When the area is assigned the vicious ~~precidice~~ practice continues and again ~~he probes~~ they probe into the R.F. boundry for a further assignment. This request appears to be a similar ~~error~~ one. If the R.F. boundaries were to be shifted on such requests every time, there will be no end for such requests, which will ~~xxxxxxx~~ ultimately lead to disreservation of the entire R.F. area. No action therefore seems called for in the matter.

AF 26.11 Done 30/11

Item (4) in para 1 above. M(A) has observed that such a concession should not be permitted, and that the belt should be preserved without permitting encroachment or cultivation so as to serve the purpose.

'D' on P 5-cf.

It is reported that cutting of ~~timber~~ trees for agricultural purposes within 100 yards of the reserve forest boundary is permitted if the land falls within Kumki Kan or bane limits and that the ryots are entitled to enjoy all privileges attached to Kan and bane lands except their permananet assignment. As the existing concession is generous enough and as the ryots are enjoying the privilege no action seems called for in the matter.

'Z' on P. 10 cf. top

'P' on P 19 cf

AF 26.11 Done 30/11

Item (5) and (6) in para 1 above: The C.C.F. has not offered any remarks in his reference at p.p.19 and 21 c.f. of top file. Apparently he is of the view that the requests deserve no consideration.

4. In the circumstances stated above it would appear that there is no need to consider the representations contained in the petitions in question. For orders whether the petitioners may be informed accordingly.

Dr Sankaravadivelu
26.11.55

M(A) M. Bhaktavatsala 23/11/55

ON

With reference to the orders above, a draft memo is submitted below for approval.

~~The memo may issue after orders on top file are issued.~~

17.12.55

17/12.

Issued as Memo. No. 42254 C IV | 55-8 dt 19.12.55.